DENIES U. S. LOSSES

London Answers Fully Wilson's Note Protesting Injury to American Industries.

TO RETALIATE AGAINST TEUTONS' SUBMARINES

Impossible to Separate German Civil and Military Population, Hence

Great Britain intends to take retalia ory measures against the German subnarine campaign against enemy ships. The British government denies that ctivities of the British fleet are responsible for depression in American industries, and suggests, among other causes, short age of shipping facilities, consequent diminution of cotton trade and destruc-

tion by submarine mines, "laid by the

indiscriminately, of many neutra

omplete reply of Great Britain to the American note of protest, which, December 28 last, asked for an early improve ment in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet. It was madpublic by mutual agreement between the State Department and the British foreign office. The note was addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey, under date of February 10.

Impossible to Separate.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British government points any country in which there exists such tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany there is clear division between those whom

minary note, Sir Edward states that c has had "further opportunity of exmining into the trade statistics of he United States as embodied in the asterometer the belligerent action of Great ritain has been in any way the cause of the trade depression which your excellency (Ambassador Page) describes a existing in the United States and leavester the selection of versels or

trade with the enemy, of their consistency with the admitted right of a belligerent to intercept such trade, and also of the extent to which they have endeavored to meet the representations and complaints from time to time addressed to them on behalf of the United States government.

Yet been waged have neutral individuals "not occasionally suffered from unjustified belligerent action," Great British ediligerent action," Great British guggests that opportunities for adequate complaints from time to time addressed to them on behalf of the United States government.

Points to Prize Courts. States government.

Toward the close of your note of

28th December your excellency de

cluding that of the nations which take no part in the war. Your excellency will realize that in this tremendous struggle, for the outbreak of which Great Britain is in no way responsible, it is impossible for the trade of any country to escape all injury and loss, but for such his majesty's governmenare not to blame.

"I do not understand the paragraph which I have quoted from your excellency's note as referring to these indirect consequences of the state of war, but to the more proximate and direct effect of our belligerent action in dealing with neutral ships and cargoes on the high seas. Such action has been limited to vessels on their way to enemy's ports in neutral countries adjacent to the theater of war, because it is only through such ports that the enemy introduces the supplies which he requires for carrying on the war."

Few Vessels Molested.

Few Vessels Molested.

Sir Edward then pointed out that only eight out of the 773 ships sailing from the United States for neutral European countries have been placed in the prize courts, and that only forty-five have been

courts, and that only forty-five have been "temporarily detained to enable particular consignments of cargo to be discharged for the purpose of prize court proceedings."

The note does not go into detail as to American ships detained on the high seas or taken to British ports for search.

The next paragraph analyzes the statistics of exports from the United States and makes the observation that "it is therefore clear that, if cotton be excluded, the effect of the war has been not to increase, but practically to arrest the decline of American exports which was in progress earlier in the year, in fact, any decrease in American exports which is attributed to the war is essentially cotton."

Pointing out that Great Britain has never declared cotton contraband or interfered with its shipment, the note then remarks that imports of cotton to the United Kingdom fell as heavily as those to other countries, and the same "no doubt was true of France."

Seek Cause Elsewhere. "The general result," it continues, "is

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has diminished from normal, the com-merce with neutral countries as com-

brought about this shortage, for it is added that only ten neutral vessels are awaiting adjudication in prize court. Great Britain declares that she, too, is suffering from the shortage of shipping, and a rise in freights "as acutely if not more than other nations," and has taken "every step consistent with belligerent interests to increase the tonnage available for the transport of sea-horne commerce."

Mine Destruction.

The hope is expressed that the United States will realize that the detention of neutral ships by the allies has not contributed nearly so much to the hortage of shipping "as has the destruction of neutral vessels by submarine mines indiscriminately laid by the enemy on the high seas many miles from the coast in the track of merchant

"I'n till now." continues the note, "Up till now," continues the note,
"twenty-five neutral vessels have been
reported as destroyed by mines on the
high seas; quite apart from all questions of the breach of treaties and the
destruction of life, there is far more
reason for protest on the score of belligerent interference with innocent neutral trade through the mines scattered
by the enemy than through the British
exercise of the right of seizing contraband."

Quotes U. S. Doctrine.

Discussing the general proposition that a belligerent is entitled to capture contraband goods on their way to the enemy, the British note traces the or-

since the presentation of the presiman note. Sir Edward states that he has had "further opportunity of examining into the trade statistics of the United States as embodied in the customs returns, in order to see whether the belligerent action of Great Britain has been in any way the cause of the trade depression which your excellency (Ambassador Page) describes as existing an the United States and also whether the seizures of vessels or cargoes which have been made by the British navy have inflicted any loss on American owners for which our existing machinery provides no means of redress."

The setting out the results of my investigation," writes the British secretary, "I think it well to take the opportunity of giving a general review of the methods employed by his majesty's government to intercept contraband trade with the enemy, of their consistency with the admitted right of a belligerent to intercept such trade, and also of the extent to which they have endeavored to meet the representations and complaints from time to time and nonplaints from time to time and nonplai

Points to Prize Courts.

"It is the common experience of every war," continues the note, "that seribed the situation produced by the action of Great Britain as a pitiful one to the commercial interests of the United States and said that many of the great industries of the country were suffering because their products were deto their government to urge that diplomatic suffering because their products were denied long-established markets in neutral European countries contiguous to the attions at war.

True Trade Disarranged.

"It is unfortunately true that in these days, when trade and finance are cosmopolitan, any war, particularly a war of any magnitude, must result in a grievous dislocation of commerce, including that of the nations which take no part in the war. Your excellency will realize that in this tremendous struggle, for the outbreak of which Great Britain is in no way responsible, it is impossible for the trade of any country to escape all injury and loss, but for such his majesty's governmenare not to blame.

"I do not understand the paragraph"

to their government to urge that diplomatic actors should be made to them in this way. When an effective mode of redress is open to them in the courts of a civilized country by which they can obtain adequate satisfaction for any invasion of their rights which is consistent with sound principle is that they should be referred to that mode of redress, and that no diplomatic action should be taken until their legal remedies have been exhausted, and they are in a position to show rima facie denial of justice.

The British government recalls that it followed this course with its own ships during the American civil war and the Spanish-American war.

and the Spanish-American war.
In connection with the subject of detentions, Ambassador Page is reminded that he has now been supplied by the British foreign office "with particulars of every ship under American colors detained and of every shipment detained and of every shipment of

to show convincingly that the naval operations of Great Britain are not the cause of any diminution in the volume of American exports, and that if the commerce of the United States is in the unfavorable condition which your excellency between the United States in the unactivities of his majesty's naval forces."

Moreover, the British communication contends that even though trade between the United States and the allies has diminished from normal, the communication contraband foodstuffs, the note says:

Ied to the protest which your excellency handed to me the 28th of December would never have been made. "My hope is that when the facts is practicable, the grounds upon which are also communicated to you, a concession which enables any United States citizen to take steps at once to protect his interests."

Food for Civilians.

Turning to the question of conditional has diminished from normal, the com-

merce with neutral countries as compared with previous years has been maintained, and the inference "may fairly be drawn" that a "substantial part of this trade was in fact intended for the enemy countries, going through neutral ports by routes to which it was previously unaccustomed."

Taking up some of the "inconveniences to which this great war is exposing the commerce of all neutral countries," the note points out that undoubtedly the "serious shortage in shipping available for ocean transport, and the consequential result of excessive freights" have had much to do with the situation, but a denial is entered that Great Britain's activity has brought about this shortage, for it is added that only ten neutral vessels are awaiting adjudication in prize court.

Great Britain declares that she, too, is suffering from the shortage of shipping, and a rise in freights "as acutely if not more than other nations," and has taken "every step consistent with belligerent interests to increase the temporage available for the transport of Bismarck Quoted.

Sir Edward then quoted Prince Bis marck's answer to the Kiel Chamber of Commerce in 1884, in connection with the treatment of rice as contraband in the French-Chinese war:

the French-Chinese war:

"The measure in question," Prince Bismarck is quoted as saying, "has for its object the shortening of the war by increasing the difficulties of the enemy and is a justifiable step in war if impartially enforced against all neutral ships."

The British note here remarks:
"His majesty's government are disposed to think that the same view is still maintained by the German government. Another circumstance which is now coming to light is that an elaborate machinery has been organized by the enemy for supply of foodelaborate machinery has been organized by the enemy for supply of foodstuffs for the use of the German army from overseas. Under these circumstances it would be absurd to give any definite pledge that in cases where the supplies can be proved to be for the use of the enemy forces they should be given complete immunity by the simple expedient of dispatching them to an agent in a neutral port.

"The reason for drawing a distinction between foodstuffs intended for the civil population and those for the armed forces of enemy government disappears when the distinction between the civil population and the armed forces itself disappears.

German Foodstuff Seizure.

octand division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not."

"It will still be our endeavor," says the final paragraph, "to avoid injury and loss to neutrals, but the announce ment by the Geral of the rationality or character and without making any provision for the safety of non-combatant crease or giving them a chance crease or giving them a chance crease or giving them a chance stay for his majesty's government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one beligerent to depart from rules and bound by them."

Denies Hurting U. S. Trade.

Supplementing the preliminary reply of several weeks ago, the new note is about 10,600 words long and includes not only statistical argument, but a further discussion of the legal principles involved. Foremost, however, is the denial of the British note to search should rest upon the extending of the safety of on-coordinate the depression in American rowners, on "the result of any exercise of beiligerent rights."

Since the presentation of the preliminary note, Sir Edward states than he has had "further opportunities of the crules of the safety of the crease of the size of the safety of the crease of the safety of



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Robert I. Miller, he pleaded not guilty

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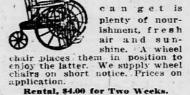


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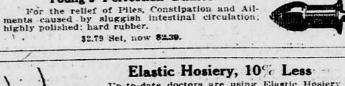
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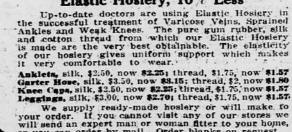
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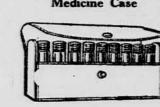
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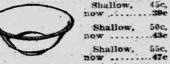
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